

is when the White House, the House and the Senate was controlled by the Democrats. I heard the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) stand up here and plead for a middle-class tax cut in that 1993 bill. It was the largest tax on the middle class we have ever had in U.S. history. There was a \$360 billion deficit, forever, no light at the end of the tunnel. No, we were not going to vote for that.

There was a \$320 billion increase. Did they increase the spending on veterans? No. Did they increase it on the military or Social Security or the Social Security Trust Fund? No. They did it at that time on the then First Lady HILLARY CLINTON's health care government control plan and welfare.

Well, what did they do? They cut the veterans' COLA in the 1993 bill. Things they demagogue every single day, they cut the entire COLA for veterans. They cut the entire COLA for military. When Republicans took the majority, we passed and rescinded that and we restored those COLAs for our veterans and our military.

They demagogue every day about Social Security and our seniors. They increased the tax on Social Security. They cut every dime out of the Social Security Trust Fund for their tax increase, and that is wrong as well.

Did they cut spending? No, they did not. They even had an increase in the gas tax that went into the general fund. When we took the majority in 1994 we changed that also. We did not eliminate it, what we did was put it into the transportation fund so that liberals could not spend it on social programs.

In 2000, as I said, there was a recession. Under Bill Clinton we had 147 military deployments, in Haiti, Somalia, Iraq five times, Sudan, Bosnia, Kosovo. In Bosnia and Kosovo, we flew 86 percent of the missions, we paid for 90 percent. The U.S., not "Butros-Butros By-Golly" in the UN, but we paid for 90 percent of those wars.

Then the next fallacy is the Clinton surplus. Not a single Clinton budget after the 1993 bill passed this floor. Republicans even brought two of his budgets to the floor to have Democrats vote on them. They were so ridiculous, they got the same amount of votes as the Hillary Clinton health care plan, three votes. Why? Because it was so outrageous and demagogued. But yet they would not vote for it. Not one substitute, even the Blue Dog budget, ever passed this floor.

So we restored the veterans and military COLAs, we took transportation dollars and put them into the Transportation Trust Fund, we balanced the budget, and yet they claim that it was a Clinton Democrat surplus.

It just is not true.

DEALING WITH THE ISSUES IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, let me note that one of the prior speakers from the other side of the aisle was talking about the tax cut going to the richest part of America, which they defined as any family earning over \$75,000 a year.

Now, I would hope that every working family out there, where a man and woman working as hard as they do in order to make ends meet, realizes that if their total family income is over \$75,000, the people on this side of the aisle have been labeling them as the rich, as the wealthy, as the people who need to be exploited in order to help all the other people.

This is quite disturbing. It is certainly disturbing to me. I do not come from a wealthy family and the people I know work really hard in order to have a family income of \$75,000 a year. Let me note that in our package, we are hearing a complaint that we are helping families that earn \$75,000 a year, we are hearing complaints we have included a child tax credit, we are hearing a complaint we have ended the marriage penalty tax, that we have tried to give the seniors a little relief on their earnings limitations, things that were dramatically reversed in the opposite direction during the Clinton years when the Democrats controlled both Houses of Congress and the presidency.

They just went to work on all of the ordinary Americans. Of course, ordinary Americans are anyone who earns under \$75,000. But if you earned \$75,000 a year, you are the enemy and you are the target, according to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

But that is not the subject I wish to talk about today. Just very quickly, let me note I have spent a great deal of time in Afghanistan over the years. People in this body understand that I have taken special care with the issue of Afghanistan. I warned this body for years during the Clinton administration that we had to do something about the Taliban or it would come back to hurt us, and it did, in a big way on September 11, when 3,000 of our own people were slaughtered by an attack that had been based in Afghanistan.

I rise today to warn my colleagues that the situation in Afghanistan is not going in the right way. Although much progress has been made, there are some things we need to worry about. Let us remember that the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, some of the same people, these mujahedin fighters who fought against the Soviet Union, and I was there in Afghanistan at the time with them, those very same people were recruited by this administration, by the United States, to help us defeat the Taliban and drive al Qaeda, which was a terrorist gang headed by bin Laden, out of Afghanistan.

□ 1515

Their bravery, along with that of our Special Forces teams, had a magnifi-

cent victory in Afghanistan. We drove them out; but since that time, we have not done what is right by the Afghan people again. When they helped us drive out the Soviet Union troops and end the Cold War, we let them sleep in the rubble. There has not been the progress in helping them rebuild their country in Afghanistan that they need to experience. America needs to pay attention to this. There are prices to pay when we do not do what is right.

The heroin crop in Afghanistan has quadrupled over the last year and a half. That is because the people are desperate. They have no other source of income. We have to go in there and help those people rebuild their country, and we are not doing so.

What is worse than that is our embassy, under the control of the United States State Department, is pushing to undermine the Northern Alliance that drove out the Taliban and defeated al Qaeda, they are undermining these brave militia men and instead, shifting power over to another group in Afghanistan, many of whom were allied with the Taliban. Now, if you think that is screwed up, it is hard to fathom when you take a look at it.

What the people in the northern part of Afghanistan are looking for is the right to elect their own provincial leaders, their governors, and their own mayors and city councilmen; they are asking for that right before they would disarm. Our embassy is pushing a centralized system on the people of Afghanistan modeled after the French, of all people, where the government, the central government would appoint the heads of the local police and the schools and whatever. Well, no wonder the Northern Alliance who fought the Taliban are not willing to give up their arms until they know they have a right to cast ballots to determine their own destiny.

Our State Department, for some reason, does not have faith in the American system of government to the point that we are willing to share that with the people of Afghanistan. We need to keep track of what is going on over there. The people in Congress, the administration needs to keep closer track of what is happening and make sure that democracy works and the people of Afghanistan can share in the prosperity of this era.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Ohio.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.